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### ***Kernan Announces Grants to Train 904 Workers at Five Central Indiana Companies***

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that five central Indiana companies would receive training grants from the Indiana Department of Commerce Skills Enhancement Fund.

“To remain competitive, businesses must offer the latest training to its employees while constantly upgrading equipment and technology,” said Kernan, who leads the state’s economic development efforts. “These grants are there to help our Hoosier companies make the investments needed to remain ahead of the game.”

- **Ball Systems, Inc.**, Carmel, has been awarded a \$1,975 grant to train one new and five incumbent employees as part of a \$650,000 investment to purchase additional buildings and new equipment. Established in 1966, Ball Systems is a leader in the custom electronics test market, providing engineering consulting services, design and production needs to its customer base, which includes Allison, Philips and Orion. Ball Systems will use the grant to offer employees training in computer skills, Manufacturing Resource Planning/Enterprise Resource Planning (MRP/ERP) and ISO 9001.
- **Blue River Stamping, Inc.**, Shelbyville, received a \$14,075 grant to train two new and to 59 existing employees following the company’s \$256,000 investment in equipment upgrades. Started in 1997, Blue River Stamping provides metal stamping and assembly of automotive parts. Using the Commerce funding, Blue River will train employees in English as a second language, welding, manufacturing processes, programmable logic controllers (PLC) and other training and quality control procedures.
- **Indianapolis Woodworking, Inc.**, Fishers, received a \$13,800 grant to train six new and 42 existing associates following the company’s capital investment of \$100,000 in buildings and equipment upgrades. The company, founded in 1990, is a high-end architectural millwork company that primarily provides services to professional clients, including planners and property developers. Employees will receive instruction in computer skills, forklift, CAD/CAM, blueprint reading, lean manufacturing, machining, on-the-job training and assembly.

- **Pepsi-Cola General Bottlers of Indiana, Inc.**, Indianapolis, has been awarded an \$111,000 grant to retrain 384 incumbent employees as part of a \$5.41 million investment in upgrading buildings, equipment and land. The third-largest soft drink bottler in the world, Pepsi operates manufacturing, distribution, bottling, refurbishment and vending centers. The Indianapolis site is a major company hub for manufacturing, distribution, vending, refurbishment and administration in the Midwest. The company will use the grant to provide employee training in basic electrical skills, team building, problem solving, warehousing, manufacturing processes, computer skills, train-the-trainer, statistical process control (SPC) and NextGen training.
- **PK USA**, Shelbyville, is the recipient off a \$70,000 grant to retrain 405 existing employees following the company's \$21.66 million investment in equipment upgrades. PK USA was established in 1989 and manufactures auto metal stamping and assembly parts, producing more than 500 model parts in metal and plastics. Training will include English as a second language, welding, robotics, PLC, SPC, train-the-trainer and QS 9000.

The Commerce department awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact their regional Commerce office at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).

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